

Résumé du contenu/English Summary

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Volume 11, numéro 1, 1978

Centres d'accueil du Québec : accréditation et évaluation

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/017086ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/017086ar>

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Éditeur(s)

Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal

ISSN

0316-0041 (imprimé)

1492-1367 (numérique)

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Citer ce document

Crelinsten, D. (1978). Résumé du contenu/English Summary. *Criminologie*, 11(1), 87–89. <https://doi.org/10.7202/017086ar>

RÉSUMÉ DU CONTENU / ENGLISH SUMMARY

Translation : Dorothy Crelinsten

The role of institutions as substitutes for the inadequacies of the contemporary family is ever increasing. At the same time, the question of the output, the effectiveness, and finally, the pertinence of new institutions as a solution in today's social policy is becoming more and more problematical. Here are some of the figures : 40% of all marriages in the United States end in divorce. In 1960, one mother in twenty was unmarried ; today the proportion is 1 in 8. At the turn of the century, close to half the families in America had relatives living under the same roof ; today, less than 5% fall into this category. One child out of seven lives with a single parent, usually the mother. The pathological consequences of these facts should not come as a surprise : a little under 50% of the persons arrested for serious offences are under 18 years of age ; 90% of all the American juveniles held in rehabilitation centres, however, were found guilty of acts for which adults would never have been sanctioned. Furthermore, the most frequent cause of mortality among adolescents from 15 to 19 years old is suicide, while alcoholism, drug-taking and emotional problems are steadily increasing.

The family as it existed traditionally, is a declining institution. Small wonder that society is seeking to solve this problem by supplementing other institutions in the form of services directed by professional personnel. Statistics show that half the women in America work outside the home, creating an insistent demand for more day-care centres. The cost of these, for the 13.5 million possible clients, would have come to 25 billions of dollars¹ in 1976.

The important lesson of the evaluative research done on the results of educational, health and social services, etc., can be summed up by Coleman's Law (after the sociologist, J. Coleman, author of *The Evaluation of America Educational Policy*) : it is impossible to establish a relationship of exact cause and effect between the input and output value in any system that provides services. This statement has led the public (the tax payer) and men in public office (responsible to the former) to question the

1. B. Bruce-Briggs, *Child Care : The Fiscal Time Bomb*, *Public Interest*, fall, 1977, pp. 87-102.

present direction of social policy, which has tended to substitute new institutions for those whose results have proven unsatisfactory. We believe that it is in this context that criminologists are concerned with juvenile institutions, which include child-care centres for young delinquents.

Over the past few years, centres for Juvenile delinquents have radically changed in Quebec. The ideology which created these centres and the religious personnel which maintained them have been replaced by psycho-social concepts and by professionals from various disciplines in the social sciences. Volunteer services have been replaced by an examination of working conditions and by unions ; precise academic training has taken the place of good will and general concern. The youth centres have become secular and professional.

Therapeutic models, original or borrowed, were increased and the structures changed with amazing speed. These changes were the result of research and intensive study of the delinquents and of appropriate programmes. It was a period of initiative and fervour, with no thought of evaluation or accreditation.

This atmosphere of change and experimentation led to the situation described by the « Comité d'étude sur la réadaptation des enfants et adolescents placés en centre d'accueil » (1975).

Of 70 centres opened, we found 20 which were functioning very well or excellently, 34 which were functioning well, 12 rather badly and 4 which were definitely poor (p. 15) (free translation)

This was the first serious assessment of child-care centres in Quebec. There was no official accreditation and control procedure in operation except where the premises themselves were concerned. Whatever evaluation there was, was sporadic, unsystematic and fragmented.

On the other hand, research, in an attempt to better understand the delinquent and the problem of rehabilitation, has always played a significant role. The obscure work of hundreds of university students, in psychology, sociology, education, criminology, psycho-education, social service or law, has produced many reports and theses. However, a synthesis, one of the numerous problems in finding an approach to rehabilitation, is yet to be made, and promises a wealth of valuable information.

Four types of research, along the same lines as these individual studies, have been developing simultaneously. The first

was the clinical research of Reverend Father Noël Mailloux and his team, which dealt with individual delinquents and the use of the group approach. The second was research on the development of rehabilitation programmes. These studies, often unknown since they were seldom published, were conducted in various institutions and contributed to the elaboration of the psycho-educational model of rehabilitation. There was also the study of Pierre Landreville on recidivism, while Maurice Cusson, in the search for a sociological orientation, did comparative research on the social life in rehabilitation centres.

In short, many persons in Quebec have been interested for a long time in research in the field of juvenile delinquency. Today, as illustrated by the work of « Le groupe de recherche sur l'adaptation juvénile », researchers are concerned with the comprehensive evaluation of the rehabilitation system, basing themselves on various former trends. It is not enough, however, to wish to conduct integrated studies ; there must be some assurance that the findings will be used, or else made easily accessible to educators and administrators. The research team headed by Marc LeBlanc presents the results of their most recent work dealing with the general principles of rehabilitation, and describing the instruments which have proved useful and pertinent for the evaluation of institutional rehabilitation and essential for the accreditation of child-care centres.

The article of R. Ménard and M. LeBlanc describes an instrument for measuring the social climate in living units ; they show it can be used for evaluating a milieu in terms of its strengths and weaknesses, and how it can lead to specific lines of action. B. Tessier and M. LeBlanc give a mathematical analysis of the theory of rehabilitation stages, as formulated by Jeannine Guindon. R. Brill goes into the problem of the assignment of clients to their educators in a rehabilitation centre for juvenile delinquents. Finally, a topical question is given an expert opinion : R. Tremblay discusses the problems posed by the coordination of educational and rehabilitative goals in child-care centres.

Under commentaries, Alice Parizeau gives an account of the « Association mondiale des amis de l'enfance » (Amade) and other volunteer organizations concerned with the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. A list of recent publications, prepared by Vesna Blazina, completes this issue.